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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) 25X1 REPORT 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Rosslau Area 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT mid- to late November 1950

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 12 January 1951

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1

REMARKS

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1. Units totaling 1,000 to 1,200 troops were quartered in the Pionier Schule in Rosslau (M 52/E 17) on 15 and 16 November 1950. Local residents said that the number of troops in the installation was far below that quartered there during the winter of 1949/1950. Seven canvas-covered JS tanks were parked along the western edge of the billeting area.

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2. Between 13 and 16 November 1950 the Pionier Schule in Rosslau quartered about 1,000 troops of tank, artillery, infantry and engineer units. The engineer amphibious training area seemed deserted. No troops or equipment were observed there.

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3. The former hospital on Seminarstrasse, Dessau, was occupied by kommandatura guard units numbering 150 to 200 men. The kommandatura which was also located on Seminarstrasse, was staffed by about 40 officers and EM. An MVD office located on Georgenstrasse, Dessau, had 60 to 80 men who wore red-bordered green epaulets.

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4. Between 16 and 28 November 1950, the barracks installation in Rosslau-Meinsdorf quartered, tank, artillery, engineer, infantry, and motor transport units. Tanks were observed in two former garages facing Lukowerstrasse, east of gate No 3. The garages were previously occupied by troops, who had moved to barracks in which officers had been billeted until recently. Eight to ten fuel trucks

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5. At 7:30 a.m. on 18 November, about 250 troops with artillery insignia practiced an attack against the village of Meinsdorf, advancing on either side of the road. [REDACTED]

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6. On 22 November, it was learned that tank drivers were being trained on eight to ten JS tanks in the area north of Highway No 187. Troops in the billeting area were allegedly engaged in training with medium and heavy mortars.

7. Furniture was unloaded in the officers' settlement on Ossietzki-strasse on 22 November. It had been hauled to the settlement on trucks [REDACTED] which were driven by tank troopers. [REDACTED] carrying eight tank officers and baggage pulled up at 34 Rotdornweg about noon. It was learned that 35 officers from the Rohr Kaserne had moved to the settlement on 17 November, 12 officers from the Pionier Schule on 19 November and 40 engineer officers from the Semendria Kaserne on 22 November. The barracks space vacated by the officers was allegedly to be re-occupied by enlisted personnel previously quartered in the wooden barracks.

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8. [REDACTED]

9. Incoming railroad shipments included 38 railroad cars, each loaded with 15 tons of briquettes from the Golpa mine at Bitterfeld on 16 November; eight tank cars with gasoline from Buna near Merseburg and four boxcars with 80 tons of potatoes from Land Mecklenburg on 17 November; and six heavy-duty flatcars with tree trunks from Medewitzer Huetten at Flaeming on 21 November.
10. On 24 November, it was again observed that 28 officer families were loaded at the Rosslau freight station and left toward Magdeburg at dusk on the same day. Another shipment of dependents was allegedly to be dispatched during the first half of December. Several officers said that, in Meinsdorf, only 15 to 20 field-grade officers were allowed to keep their families with them. Fifteen officers from the Rohr Kaserne moved to the officer settlement on 25 November 1950. \*\*

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11. Trucks [REDACTED] occupied by eight to ten tank troopers, and four JS-3 tanks left the billeting area through the gate on Meinsdorferstrasse in the forenoon of 27 November, heading toward Muehlstaedt-Thiessen. It was learned that driving courses were held in this area under the supervision of tank driving instructor Captain Vjronskov, (fnu).

12. About 160 artillery and engineer troops were observed digging trenches and foxholes in the wooded area of Luckow-Muehlstaedt on 28 November. \*\*\* Three JS-3 tanks arrived from the direction of Muehlstaedt in the afternoon, with three or four soldiers wearing tank helmets squatting on each tank.

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